

# The Economic Weekly

A Journal of Current Economic and Political Affairs

(Established January 1949)

April 25, 1953

Volume V— No. 17

Eight annas

## EDITORIALS

Chance for Indo-Pak Amity	477
<i>Profaned Too Often . . .</i>	478

## WEEKLY NOTES

Bank Disputes Award— What Price Burma Rice— Millowners Meet MB Cottage Industries— Madras Trams Go Off the Rails	480
--	-----

## FROM THE LONDON END

<i>If Butler's Gamble Comes off . . .</i>	481
---	-----

## OFF THE RECORD

The Chlomphyll Hoax	483
---------------------	-----

## BOOK REVIEW

Population and Colonies Reviewed by Ashish Bose	485
--	-----

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

Change in the Leadership of a Mysore Village Alan R Beals	487
Battle of the Ganges on Indian Railways K Murthi	494

## ACTUARIAL VALUATION

Indian Life Assurance Co Ltd	497
------------------------------	-----

## AROUND THE MARKETS

Uptrend Continues	499
-------------------	-----

## COMPANY NOTES

Bombay State Co-operative Bank —Premier Construction— Walchandnagar Industries	501
---	-----

CURRENT STATISTICS	502
--------------------	-----

Yearly Subscription post free  
India and Pakistan Rs 24/-  
Foreign Rs 27/-

The Economic Weekly  
Noble Chambers, Parsi Bazar St.,  
Fort, Bombay.  
Phone: 23406

## Chance for Indo-Pak Amity

THE recent trend of events in Pakistan continues to cause anxiety for more reasons than one. Pakistan had prided itself on being surplus in food production and had made this into a weapon of propaganda, both at home and abroad. When it suddenly developed food shortage, it was the beginning of considerable local disturbances in the affected areas. Calamities of nature are not confined to any one country. Providence is blind and Pakistan suffered a succession of droughts which unbalanced her food budget. Man improved on nature's work by a whole series of devices with which we have been all too familiar in this country. Food shortage set up a chain reaction. Stocks disappeared underground, attempts to introduce controls were defeated by the black-market. Procurement, never popular at best of times, was staved and interfered with by political pressures of all sorts. World economic forces, no creation of the Pakistanis themselves, aggravated the situation by raising prices of competing cash crops so high that the temptation to divert cultivation to such crops was difficult to resist, as much for individual tanners as for the Government. In consequence, ravages of nature combined with man's handy work to make food supply even shorter.

The assurance of a bright economic outlook with which the State had started was rudely shaken. It was not easy for a people who had been sustained at a high pitch of religious propaganda to face bitter facts. The knowledgeable in Pakistan knew it better than others that Pakistan's much publicised food surplus did not amount to much. Even those not so well informed now know that this small surplus could be easily wiped out by a failure of monsoon or unfavourable weather conditions, and that the pendulum can swing in the opposite direction. But cold economics does not make hot politics and the full blast of propaganda has been turned on in Pakistan against India as being primarily responsible for food shortage in a country which, but for the devilish tampering of the head waters of its canal system, could never have suffered such a calamity. That of the 16 canal systems in the undivided Punjab, only one is common to the two countries now 01 that of the total How of the six rivers of the Indus, Pakistan utilises 40 per cent and India only 5 per cent while the rest of the water flows out uselessly to the sea, none of these well known facts has stemmed the tide of propaganda or helped to hold it in check. There are only two canals in Pakistan which get supplies from head waters in India. Water to these canals is released in accordance with the programmes communicated to Pakistan in advance before each sowing season. Pakistan has not objected either to the programmes or to the supplies actually received. Its Government has not lodged any protest whatsoever to the Government of India.

Disturbances and mass discontent that started with food shortage did not stop with blaming India for all these troubles. An undercurrent of resentment against the non-conformist Muslim sect of Ahmediyas which had been there all along but had never grown into a movement, suddenly assumed the proportions of an upheaval and speedily led to a